



**Gear Up for National Teach Ag Day (September 22),  
National Farm to School Month (October) and so  
much more! #TeachAg #LearnAboutAg In this issue...**

- [1. Teacher Feature - Elizabeth Skylar](#)
- [2. California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference](#)
- [3. DIG-IT!](#)
- [4. Literacy for Life Grants](#)
- [5. Imagine this... Story Writing Contest](#)
- [6. Featured Resource: New Fact Sheets](#)
- [7. Teachers Need to Pilot and Evaluate Resources](#)
- [8. Ag-Bites Now Updated!](#)
- [9. Grant Feature: Target Field Trip Grant](#)
- [10. Statewide Workshops and Events](#)
- [11. County Ag Activities](#)
- [12. More Ag Opportunities](#)
- [Support AITC](#)



**1. Teacher Feature - Elizabeth Skylar**



California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom

**DID YOU KNOW?!**

California leads the  
nation in green and dry  
onion production.

[Source: California  
Department of Food and  
Agriculture](#)

**Teaches:** All grade levels about cooking, gardening, wellness and the environment!

**Program:** [Edible Education Napa Valley](#)

Elizabeth Skylar is a self-trained chef, educator and food-systems community activist at Edible Education Napa Valley, a program she created in 2011. After many years in the hospitality industry, Elizabeth became an educator. She attended workshops at the Edible Schoolyard and became involved with Ag in the Classroom. Elizabeth discovered her passion for educating California students about agriculture, healthy eating and cooking. Elizabeth will attend the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference for the sixth time!

**Tell us a little about your program.**

My program started with one school and one school-garden teacher, teaching an afterschool cooking class. It has evolved into a number of different programs in Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties, primarily consisting of hands-on cooking classes that focus on local, seasonal and plant-based menus. I recently started working as a Nutrition and Wellness Supervisor for Napa Valley Unified School District and as a Farm Chef at Stone Bridge School. It's very exciting that Napa is embracing this aspect of education.

**What do you love most about what you do?**

I love seeing the children's faces when they taste something they have cooked, particularly if they have grown the ingredients. There is nothing like it.

**What do you hope to gain from the 2016 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference?**

It is always a great opportunity to learn what other educators are doing and to share my experiences. I also enjoy the tours. I always learn so much about California agriculture, and it makes me even more committed to teaching students.

## **2. Register Now! California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference - Sacramento, September 22-24, 2016**

The countdown is on: 18 days until the 2016 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference! [Explore the list of tours and workshops, and register today.](#)



## Get Involved in the Conference

We are still accepting applications to present Make 'n' Take sessions. Make 'n' Take presenters will receive a \$50 stipend. You can also host a *Taste of California* dinner table. [Apply now!](#)



## 3. DIG-IT in Your School Garden!

Attention K-5 teachers interested in gardens! Can you 'DIG-IT'? We're partnering with Tractor Supply Company to offer \$500 gift cards to support school gardens! See if your school is eligible to [Apply](#). The deadline is October 15, 2016. \*Schools must be [within 35 miles of a Tractor Supply Company store](#).





#### 4. Literacy for Life Grants

Want to take your class on an ag field trip, purchase a class set of ag books, or host an ag education day? Here is your chance! Grant possibilities are limitless; be creative and innovative! Literacy for Life grants are designed to initiate new projects or expand existing ones that promote agricultural literacy. [Apply online today!](http://agclassroom.org/tscgrant) Applications are due October 1, 2016.



#### 5. *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest

**Have your students  
started writing  
their stories yet?**

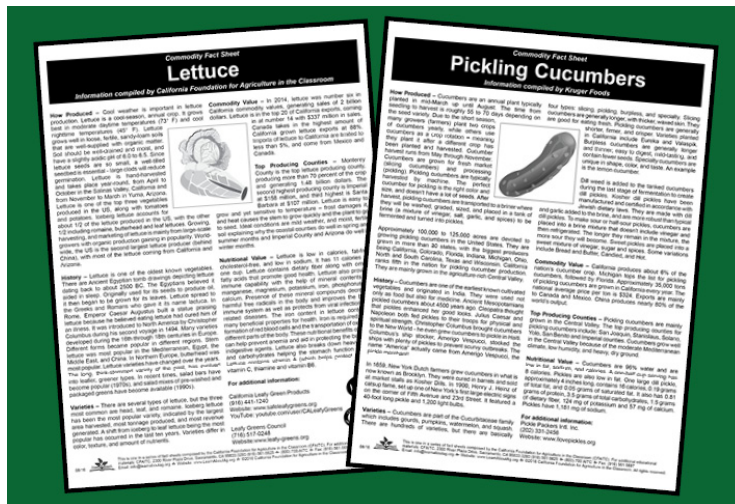


It's time to write! The *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest is open to all **California third through eighth-grade students**. Students write creative narratives about California agriculture, for a chance to be published. The annual deadline is **November 1**. All students who write stories will receive a FREE packet of seeds! [Explore prompt ideas, past-winning stories, author interviews and more!](#) Contact [Jennifer@LearnAboutAg.org](mailto:Jennifer@LearnAboutAg.org) with questions. Download the [promotional flyer/entry form](#).



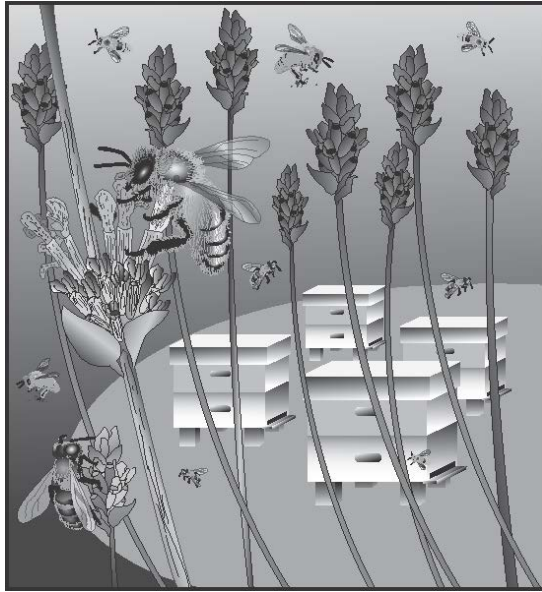
## 6. Featured Resource - New Fact Sheets

Learn all about lettuce and pickling cucumbers! We have created two new Agricultural Fact and Activity Sheets. These brand new resources are not available as printed copies just yet, but they are available for download. [Download now](#) and start pickling and making lettuce art!



## 7. Teachers Needed to Pilot Bee Fact Sheet (Grades 4-12)

We need 15 teachers (grades 4-12) to pilot our new fact and activity sheet about bees and their role in California agriculture. Upon completion of the project (now through December 2016), participating teachers will receive a \$50 stipend. [Complete this brief form](#) to learn more and apply to participate.



## Teachers Needed to Evaluate Plant Nutrients Units (Grades K-12)

Participate in the *Plant Nutrients* project and receive a stipend! We are still in need of teachers to evaluate our Plant Nutrient units. The project is starting now and runs through November 30, 2016. You will receive a lab kit for your classroom, conduct an evaluation of the unit, and take away a \$100 stipend. [Complete this brief form](#) to learn more and apply to participate.



## 8. Ag-Bites - Now Updated to Current California Standards!

Ag-Bites are bite-sized ways to bring agriculture into your classroom. The one-page sheets explain how to perform hands-on learning activities with students in various grade levels (K-12). We recently updated all 14 resources in the set to the current California Standards. [Download now!](#)



## 9. Grant Feature: Target Field Trip Grant



**Target Foundation** provides [field trip grants valued up to \\$700](#) to K-12 schools nationwide. Applications are due October 1, 2016.

See our [Literacy for Life](#) grant and [other grants](#) and deadlines.

## 10. Statewide/Nationwide Events, Competitions, & More!

### **Santa Cruz School Food and Garden Tour (educators of K-8)**

- **October 13, 2016**
- 1-Day tour of school sites, cost \$150/\$180
- The tour is hosted by Life Lab and is open to anyone interested in school food or school gardens.
- Learn about garden design, best practices and how to bring academic learning to life in your garden.
- [Sign up online.](#)

### **2nd Annual Tri-County Growing Edible Education Symposium (K-12 educators and community members)**

- **October 14-15, 2016**
- 2-Day Symposium in Santa Paula, cost \$30- \$100
- Visit garden, food service and farm education programs
- Share best practices for teaching food and nutrition at this event hosted by the Ventura County Farm to School Collaborative.
- [Register online.](#)

### **Photo Contest: Green Education Foundation**

- Enter your best photo of students learning about sustainability, whether it is in a garden, classroom, or wherever learning moments occur.
- Ten winners will be selected to receive a \$25 gift card to Gardener's Supply Company. The grand prize winner will



win \$250 cash and a \$1,000 gift card. Two runners-up will receive \$100 gift cards.

- The deadline is **September 30, 2016**.
- Submit via email: [service@greeneducationfoundation.org](mailto:service@greeneducationfoundation.org).

#### **Photo Contest: California Farm Bureau Federation**

- The contest is open to California Farm Bureau Federation members, contributing members of the California Bountiful Foundation, and their children.
- Submit up to five photos that celebrate California agriculture.
- The Budding Artist category is for photographers 13 years old and younger.
- The deadline is **September 30, 2016**.
- [See rules and entry forms](#).



## **11. County Ag Activities**

September 10 and 17, 2016 - **Yolo County's** [Teacher Grape Day](#)

Learn how grapes are grown firsthand! Tour local vineyards, talk to experts, learn about free resources and practice grafting, all while earning continuing-education units.

October 6, 2016 - **Merced County's** [Farm2U Day](#)

Third-graders from will learn firsthand about Merced County's expansive agricultural industry and the many benefits of making healthy eating choices.

November 5, 2016 - **Ventura County's** [Farm Day](#)

Enjoy a family-friendly Saturday of tours, farm-fresh food, live music and fun activities. Experience Southern California agriculture through the eyes of farmers and farm workers.

## **12. More Ways to Learn About Ag**

**Careers in Agriculture** - National FFA and Discovery Education have joined forces to create a robust, comprehensive career resource to help you explore the broad range of careers within the industry of agriculture. Check out [AgExplorer.com](http://AgExplorer.com)! The site's first virtual field trip will be coming in November.

**Marin County** - Slide Ranch's 10 ½ - month Teacher-in Residence program fosters and inspires the next generation of leaders in education, sustainable farming and environmental stewardship. [Learn more and apply!](#)

**Sacramento County** - The [Farm-to-Fork Festival](#) will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2016, celebrating where food and drinks come from and bringing attendees face-to-face with the people who are feeding the region and the world.

**Stanislaus County** - The [Fertilizer Research and Education Program](#) (FREP) will host its annual conference October 26-27 at the DoubleTree hotel in Modesto.



**Santa Cruz County** - [Life Lab](#) offers garden-based field trips for preschool through middle school students in the Garden Classroom on the UC Santa Cruz CASFS Farm.

**San Mateo County** - [Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center](#) provides hands-on opportunities for children from preschool through high school.



### Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

Help us continue to provide programs and materials to create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students.

[Make a one-time or recurring donation.](#)

### Stay Connected



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom,  
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